

The Ups and Downs

Alabama Department of Labor

INSPECTOR'S POINT OF VIEW: TIMOTHY MURPHY

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Elevator Inspection fee increase to \$90 effective January 1, 2008
- Alabama Department of Labor will be closed January 21, 2008 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. & Robert E. Lee Holiday
- Elevator Mechanics' Exam February 28, 2008 9AM

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Q: How long have you been an elevator inspector? A: I have had my QEI for 3 years.

Q: What made you decide you wanted to be in the elevator industry? A: I was the Leading Petty Officer of the elevator shop aboard the USS Constellation, CV-64 an aircraft carrier. When I got out of the Navy in 1994, I decided to work on elevators until something better came along. Needless to say, it has only gotten better. I worked five years as a service mechanic, five years as a construction Superintendent and three years for Lerch Bates as a Consultant.

Q: What is the most interesting case you have come across when inspecting elevators? A: Machine roomless elevators

installed in the State of Alabama. The technology is outpacing the Code.

Q: What is the biggest change you would like to see in the elevator industry? A: ASME A17.1 catching up with new MRL technology.

Q: How strongly do you feel about elevator safety and why? A: I had always heard "it's not if you were going to get hurt in the elevator business, but when." I am on the when side of that, in 1995 I lost the end of my index finger to a Westinghouse traction machine in Jacksonville Florida when the mechanic I was working with violated the tag out and turned on a machine I was

cleaning. He is not in the business anymore, and I am VERY lucky to have a hand. Safety for the public and the people working on elevators has to be everyone's first thought.



INSIDE OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY

The Otis Elevator Company is the world's largest manufacturer of vertical transportation systems today, principally elevators and escalators. Founded in Yonkers, New York, USA in 1853 by Elisha Otis, the company pioneered the development of the safety elevator,

invented by Otis, which used a special mechanism to lock the elevator car in place should the hoisting ropes fail. Otis made skyscrapers possible by providing safe mechanical transport to upper floors.

Statistically, Otis is the world's most popular transportation

company. It is estimated that the equivalent of the world's population travel in Otis elevators, escalators and moving walkways every three days. According to United Technologies, Otis elevators carry the equivalent of the world's population every nine days.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD: ARTHUR STEBER

Arthur W. Steber, has been involved in the elevator industry for over twenty-nine years and has been a member of the Alabama Elevator Safety Review Board from the start, servicing as the board chairman. He has been from the start of his career involved in the safety and education of the industry especially in Alabama where their where no governing bodies over elevators. Steber began his career in the field as a helper then moved up to mechanic after completing the National Elevator Industry Educational Program. Industry experiences span a range of positions that include adjuster, superintendent, salesman, manager and business

owner as well as sitting on many of the industry boards such as the National Association of Elevator Contractors as he does now. Steber views issues confronting this Industry as the consolidation of the industry by the international conglomerates, the safety and education of all who work, ride and own elevators. Arthur and his wife Robin of over 28 years, have two children who both work in the industry with him, along with one nephew who also works in the industry. He enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, drag racing and working with his extended family at Elevator Maintenance and Repair.



*Arthur Steber
Chairman*

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LOOKING AT THE BOARD: BETTY SWANN

Betty Swann was appointed to the Alabama Elevator Safety Board in 2006 to represent the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), where she currently serves as Seminar Chair and was awarded "2006 Member of the Year." She is a native of South Georgia and is employed by Cousins Properties Services as a Senior Property Manager at

Inverness. She also serves on the board of the Inverness Office Park Association.

Recognized recently as a Finalist in the *Birmingham Business Journal's* Rising Star-Best in Business" awards, Betty encourages improvements in comfort, productivity and safety for all work environments. Since BOMA's mission is to enhance the human, intellectual and physical assets of

the commercial real estate industry through advocacy, education, research, standards and information, Betty hopes serving on this board will help strengthen the relationship between BOMA affiliates and the elevator industry to promote the aforementioned ideals.



*Tammy Scroggins
ASA I*

INSIDE SCOOP: TAMMY SCROGGINS

Hi! I am Tammy, and I would like to take this moment to thank each and every one of you for the exceptionally hard work you do everyday to keep our elevators safe and operational! I am new to the department; I came aboard in May 2007. So far, it has been a wonderful learning experience. My job consists of customer service calls, invoice payments, violations have

been updated and getting certificates out to everyone. I also responsible for processing permits for the installer.

Another part of my job is entering the reports that come in from you, the inspectors. We still find many unregistered elevators, but eventually we hope to start seeing those numbers decrease. These are just some of my responsibili-

ties that I do everyday. To those I have had the privilege of speaking to and working with, it had been a pleasure, but to those I have not; I look forward to the opportunity. Remember; keep up the work and KEEP ALABAMA SAFE!

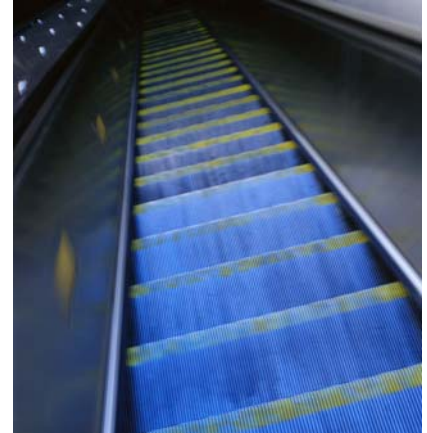
THE UPS AND DOWNS OF ESCALATORS

In 1895, Jesse Reno created a new novelty ride at Coney Island from his patented design, a moving stairway that elevated passengers on a conveyor belt at a 25 degree angle. It was later redesigned by Charles Seeberger in 1897.

Today we know that novelty ride as an escalator. Seeberger created the name escalator from the word "scala", which is Latin for steps and the word "elevator", which had already been invented. An escalator is a conveyor type transport device that moves people. It is a moving staircase with steps that move up or down using a conveyor belt and tracks keeping each step horizontal for the passenger.

Charles Seeberger, along with Otis Elevator Company produced the first commercial escalator in 1899 at the Otis factory in Yonkers, NY. The Seeberger-Otis wooden escalator won first prize at the Paris 1900 Exposition Universelle in France. Otis later came to dominate escalator production, and combined and improved the various designs of escalators.

The CPSC estimates that there were 7,300 hospital emergency room-treated injuries from escalators in 1994. Seventy-five percent of these injuries were due to falls, another 20 percent occurred when hands, feet or shoes were trapped in escalators.



SHANNON'S TWO CENTS

The holidays are on us and during the winter months busyness seems to vary.

Please remind your customers that the City of Birmingham is no longer doing annual inspections so when they are due for an inspection, they are free to choose whomever they like. Also, the annual fee for elevator safety inspections will increase to \$90.00.

Currently, Alabama has 8,853 registered conveyances. Daily, we are finding new objects that have not been inspected. Please keep your customers informed on their duty to have their elevators inspected.

Lastly, please keep your customers informed of the safety issues with Crops and escalators. Throughout the news, there are many reports of children being

caught in escalators because of the shoes they are wearing. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates about 10,000 people go to the emergency room every year after accidents on escalators. Of those, 20 percent involved having hands, feet or shoes trapped. I hope everyone has a Happy and safe holiday. Please feel free to contact me for any comments, questions or concerns!

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FOUR YEARS LATER...

It's been almost four years now since the law went into effect concerning elevators. Although this department has made great strides over the past few years, there is always room for improvement in any situation. Effective March 1, 2008 any elevator contractor found installing an elevator without a permit on the job will be double permitted.

Please review the rules and regulations on our website for fees. Also, any mechanics and/or inspectors found working on or inspecting conveyances without certificates of operation or permits will have their license up for review by Elevator Safety Review Board. We feel this is necessary to insure that our public is safe and laws are being fol-

lowed. Please direct any concerns you may have to this department. Lastly, our department is in search for another elevator inspector to cover the lower region of Alabama (Mobile and surrounding). Anyone interested and qualified for this position may submit their resumes to Mr. Pate via email or snail mail.

Alabama Department of Labor

Elevator Safety Division

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The Alabama Department of Labor, Elevator Safety Division has been operational since June 21, 2004. Our purpose is to assure that elevators and other automated conveyances are correctly and safely installed and operated within the state by authorizing and enforcing rules for design, installation, operation and maintenance of automated people conveyances, and by licensing mechanics and inspectors who work on these conveyances.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.ALALABOR.STATE.
AL.US

FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and is preparing for a safe and prosperous new year.

I have long heard it said that "nothing stays the same, everything is subject to change"...That is the subject of my letter in this, our second quarterly publication of "The ups and Downs".

Alabama's elevator safety program is a good example of the necessity and effects of change.

From the beginning, the City of Birmingham has been instrumental in the success of this program. Mr. Jim Wyatt, Operations Manager for the City of Birmingham, and Elevator Safety Review Board

Member, deserves all the credit for the city and states merge into a successful safety program. His staff of highly qualified inspectors must be commended as well.

It was announced at the last board meeting held August 22, 2007, the City of Birmingham would no longer provide annual inspections of elevators as in the past. They will only inspect new construction of elevators within the city limits. Elevator contractors will still need to contact Jim Wyatt's office to schedule those inspections.

We still look forward to working with the City of Birmingham in this limited capacity.



*Ralph Pate
Chief Inspector*